

Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 ORM-01 DPW-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /066 R

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----- 130172

R 282205Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205441

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJECT: REPORT OF "US DESERTERS" IN SVN

REF: BANGKOK 17465; B) USDLO HONG KONG 2706302 AUG 75

1. WOULD APPRECIATE BANGKOK'S EVALUATION OF REPORT (PARA FOUR REF A) OF "52 AMCITS CLAIMING TO BE US MILITARY DESERTERS: BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN SAIGON.

2. ON ITS FACE REPORT STRIKES US AS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. WE NOTE THAT "52" IS EXACT TOTAL OF AMCITS REGISTERED WITH ICRC IN SAIGON, AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OTHER REPORT FROM ANY SOURCE OF SUCH A MASS ARREST OF AMERICANS IN SVN. ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS RECENTLY DEPARTED FROM SAIGON HAVE DESCRIBED THEIR EXPERIENCES UNDER NEW REGIME, NONE HAVE REPORTED ANYTHING REMOTELY RESEMBLING THIS REPORT.

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3. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE SOME US MILITARY DESERTERS RE-

MAINED IN SVN AFTER APRIL 30, WE HAVE NO RPT NO VALIDATED
INFORMATION OR REPORTS THAT THIS IS THE CASE, LET ALONE
THAT AS MANY AS 52 REMAINED. WE NOTE THAT REFTEL REPORT
APPEARS TO BE THIRD-HAND HEARSAY AND, UNLESS BANGKOK HAS
INDICATION TO THE CONTRARY, DO NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE
ACCEPTED AS VALID. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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